

REMARKS

Remaining Claims

Claims 12-16 remain pending in this application. Claims 14-16 are currently amended, and claim 17 is cancelled herein. As explained in more detail below, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such action.

Claim Objection

Claim 15 stands objected to because of an informality. Applicant has amended claim 15 to correct the informality. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 12 and 13 under 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Publication No. 2005/0070288 to *Belkin*. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections on at least the basis that *Belkin* is not prior art with respect to the present invention. Applicant refers to the previously filed and accepted Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 (“Rule 131 Declaration”) in support thereof, which was filed on January 30, 2006. Without agreeing with the Examiner’s contentions regarding the teachings of *Belkin*, Applicant respectfully submits that the Rule 131 Declaration effectively removes *Belkin* as a reference, as the 131 Declaration provides a reasonable showing that the Applicant completed the invention before the effective filing date of *Belkin*. Applicant respectfully submits that the 102(e) date of *Belkin* is the filing date of September 29, 2003. In fact, the 131 Declaration provides a reasonable showing that the Applicant completed the invention at least as early as September 12, 2003 which is prior to the filing date of *Belkin*. Any rejection based upon *Belkin* is therefore overcome.

Remaining Rejections

Claim 17 is cancelled and the remaining pending claims, namely claims 14-16, have been amended to depend from claims 12 or 13. Accordingly, the remaining rejections are moot.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should there be any further questions or concerns, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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